AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An ink-jet recording medium comprising:

a support; and

an ink receiving layer disposed on the support, the ink receiving layer containing at least fine polymer particles and having a porous structure,

wherein the fine polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of homo- or co-polymers of vinyl monomers, ester polymers, urethane polymers, amide polymers, epoxy polymers, and modified products and copolymers of these polymers, and the content of the fine polymer particles is 50% by mass or more of solid contents in the ink receiving layer, and

wherein the ink receiving layer has a pore volume per unit thickness (A/B) of 2.0×10^{-5} ml/cm^2/μm or more,

wherein A is a pore volume ($\times 10^{-5}$ ml/cm^2) in the ink receiving layer at a pore diameter equal to an average particle diameter of the fine polymer particles, the pore volume being determined based on a pore distribution curve obtained according to a nitrogen gas adsorption technique; and

B is a dry thickness (μm) of the ink receiving layer.

2. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the pore volume A in the ink receiving layer at the pore diameter equal to the average particle diameter of the fine polymer particles is 50×10^{-5} ml/cm^2 or more.

3. (currently amended): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein ~~second~~ secondary particles of the fine polymer particles constitute the porous structure of the ink receiving layer.

4. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of Y to X [(Y/X)×100] is 65% or more,

wherein Y is a pore diameter (nm) at a maximum peak of the pore volumes in the ink receiving layer, the pore diameter being determined based on a pore distribution curve obtained according to a nitrogen gas adsorption technique; and

X is an average particle diameter (nm) of the fine polymer particles.

5. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the pore diameter Y is 33 nm or more, where Y is the pore diameter corresponding to a maximum peak of a pore volumes of secondary particles of the fine polymer particles in the ink receiving layer, the pore diameter being determined based on a pore distribution curve obtained according to a nitrogen gas adsorption technique.

6. (canceled).

7. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the fine polymer particles have an average particle diameter of 10 to 100 nm.

8. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the ink receiving layer further contains a water-soluble resin.

9. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 8, wherein the water-soluble resin is at least one of poly(vinyl alcohol) resins, cellulosic resins, resins having an ether bond, resins having a carbamoyl group, resins having a carboxyl group, and gelatin substances.

10. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 9, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) resins are partially saponified poly(vinyl alcohol)s.

11. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 10, wherein the partially saponified poly(vinyl alcohol)s have a degree of saponification of 65% to 90%.

12. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 8, wherein a mass ratio of the fine polymer particles to the water-soluble resin in the ink receiving layer is from 4:1 to 20:1.

13. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 8, wherein a content of the water-soluble resin is 4% to 25% by mass of total solids in the ink receiving layer.

14. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the ink receiving layer further contains a crosslinking agent.

15. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the ink receiving layer further contains a mordant.

16. (original): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the ink receiving layer has a dry thickness of 10 to 100 μm.

17. (currently amended): An image forming method comprising the step of:

applying an ink to an ink receiving layer of an ink-jet recording medium so as to form an image,

wherein the ink-jet recording medium comprises:

a support; and

the ink receiving layer disposed on the support, the ink receiving layer containing at least fine polymer particles and having a porous structure,

wherein the fine polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of homo- or co-polymers of vinyl monomers, ester polymers, urethane polymers, amide polymers, epoxy polymers, and modified products and copolymers of these polymers, and the content of

the fine polymer particles is 50% by mass or more of solid contents in the ink receiving layer,

and

wherein the ink receiving layer has a pore volume per unit thickness (A/B) of 2.0 $\times 10^{-5}$ ml/cm^2/μm or more,

wherein A is a pore volume ($\times 10^{-5}$ ml/cm^2) of the ink receiving layer at a pore diameter equal to the average particle diameter of the fine polymer particles, the pore volume being determined based on a pore distribution curve obtained according to a nitrogen gas adsorption technique; and

B is a dry thickness (μm) of the ink receiving layer.

18. (original): An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein a ratio of Y to X [(Y/X)×100] in the ink-jet recording medium is 65% or more,

wherein Y is a pore diameter (nm) at a maximum peak of the pore volumes in the ink receiving layer, the pore diameter being determined based on a pore distribution curve obtained according to a nitrogen gas adsorption technique; and

X is an average particle diameter (nm) of the fine polymer particles.

19. (original): An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the pore diameter Y in the ink-jet recording medium is 33 nm or more, where Y is the pore diameter corresponding to a maximum peak of a pore volume of secondary particles of the fine polymer particles in the ink receiving layer, the pore diameter being determined based on a pore distribution curve obtained according to a nitrogen gas adsorption technique.

20. (previously presented): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the fine powder particles are homo- or co-polymers of vinyl monomers or urethane polymers.

21. (previously presented): An ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the ink-jet receiving layer further contains a boron compound.